PAN-PACIFIC ENTOMOLOGIST
71(4): 245–246, (1995)

Scientific Note

NEW HOST RECORD FOR *METANOTALIA MADERENSIS* (WALKER) (HYMENOPTERA: ENCYRTIDAE)

Mercet erected the monotypic genus *Metanotalia* for *M. hispanica* from Spain; he found only females on wild grasses near arroyos or rivers (Mercet, R. G. 1921. Fauna Iberica. Himenopteros, Fam. Encirtidos: 175–177). Noyes (Noyes, J. S. 1978. Ent. Mon. Mag., 113: 9–13) determined that *M. hispanica* was a synonym for *Ectroma maderensis* Walker, described from Madeira (Walker, F. 1872. Notes on Chalcidiae, 7: 116), and reported it as the new combination, *M. maderense.* He later corrected the specific name to *M. maderensis,* and reported it from New Zealand and California (Noyes, J. S. 1988. Fauna of New Zealand, 13: 84–85). Hoffer recorded this species from Spain, Italy, Corsica, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and the Crimea, and noted that it had been reared from a pseudococcid species (Hoffer, A. 1977. Stud. entomol. Forest. 2: 229).

In June 1993, I swept *M. maderensis* adults (all females) from intermixed vetch (*Vicia cracca* L.) and wild oats (*Avena* sp.) mostly alongside roads, from 7 sites in five northern California counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Mateo and Santa Clara). The oats were fairly dry, but the vetch was flowering. I did not find any free-living *M. maderensis* on wild oats in the absence of vetch. I found no living mealybugs on either plant species, but collected 2 mealybug mummies from oats in Sunol (Alameda Co.). One mummy produced a single *M. maderensis* female 3–4 d after it was collected; the other had no emergence.

The empty mummy was dissected in chloralphenol (1 part liquified phenol: 1 part chloralhydrate); I found a single set of larval mouthparts with a well-formed epistoma indicating that the emergent *M. maderensis* was probably a primary parasitoid.

The other mealybug mummy was identified as *Phenacoccus madeirensis* Green (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae). Although first described in Madeira, this species may have originated in the New World and thence spread to Madeira and mainland Africa. The mealybug is known from throughout southern North America, the Carribean and South America, and has been recorded from numerous hosts (Williams, D. J. 1987. Bull. ent. Res., 77: 335–356).

In 1994, I found a specimen of which resembles *M. maderensis* with the label "Univ. of Calif. B.I.I. Nr. A25" at the University of California at Riverside. This label refers to the Beneficial Insect Investigation Unit, formerly part of California's Department of Agriculture, and precursor to the present Division of Biological Control at Riverside. Record A25 refers to a shipment of 48 parasitized mealybugs collected from pomelo and guava in Taiwan (Shinten Konglswan, Taipeh Hsein) on 9–11 Oct. 1951 by T. Maa and sent to Stanley Flanders (S. Frommer, pers. comm.). There are no records of this species having been actually released in California.

Specimens of *M. maderensis* have been deposited in three institutions: the Essig Museum at the University of California, Berkeley, the Bohart Museum at the University of California, Davis, and the California Academy of Sciences in San

Francisco. The unemerged mummy was retained at the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento.

Acknowledgment.—Leo Caltagirone of the University of California, Berkeley conducted the dissections. Ray Gill of the California Department of Food and Agriculture identified the *Phenacoccus madeirensis* mummy and Junji Hamai of the University of California, Berkeley identified the plants.

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PAN-PACIFIC ENTOMOLOGIST
71(4): 246–248, (1995)

Scientific Note

VESPULA GERMANICA (FABR.) IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (HYMENOPTERA: VESPIDAE)

The German yellowjacket, *Vespula germanica* (Fabr.) is native to Europe, northern Africa and western Asia (Spradbery. 1973. Wasps, Univ. Washington Press). Isolated specimens, often initially misidentified, have been occasionally taken in the USA since 1891 (Menke & Snelling. 1975. Coop. Econ. Ins. Rep., 25: 193–200). It has been known to be breeding in the USA since Wagner & Reierson (1971. Natl. Pest Contr. Oper. News, 31: 6–7, 30–32) described a nest of the species found in New Jersey in 1971. This wasp has spread throughout the northeast quadrant of the USA (MacDonald & Akre. 1984. Entomol. News, 95: 5–8) and into the Pacific Northwest (Akre, Ramsey, Grable, Baird & Stanford. 1989. Pan-Pac. Entomol., 65: 79–88). On the west coast, *V. germanica* has been previously reported as far south as San Francisco (Gambino. 1987. Pan-Pac. Entomol., 63: 358). Here we report the establishment of this wasp in southern California.

Workers were first collected in southern California in Los Angeles County on 31 Jan 1991 (Garrison. 1993. L. A. Co. Agric. Comm. Off. Bulletin, 2 pp., and pers. comm.). In Orange County, *V. germanica* colonies were collected from wall voids on 29 Aug 1991 in Los Alamitos, and 30 Jun 1992 in Cypress (N. Nisson, pers. comm.). On 31 May 1993 in Los Angeles, DAR identified 3 queens and 10 males collected from inside a residence, but no nest could be located. PKV identified a large active nest discovered 25 Jul 1993 in a closet of a vacant, earthquake-damaged house in Claremont (Fig 1.). The plasterboard had fallen away from the wall allowing the wasps to expand the nest from a wall void into an exposed closet space. The nest dimensions were approximately 1 m long by 0.5 m wide. Given its large size, this colony may have overwintered at least one year. On 17 Nov 1993, an active nest was identified by RSV in Riverside built around the trunk of an ornamental date palm tree. This nest was founded in a cavity among the axils, and was subsequently expanded and wrapped around the terminal axil bases